



## **MEMORANDUM**

To: Washington Learns Steering Committee Members

From: Lawrence O. Picus

Subject: **Materials in Preparation for December 12 Meeting**

Date: December 5, 2005

In response to the Steering Committee's request for substantive materials related to our evidence based approach to school finance adequacy, please find attached the following three documents:

1. The executive summary of the 2003 adequacy study conducted for the state of Arkansas
2. The executive summary of the final recalibration report prepared for the state of Wyoming
3. A proposal to conduct an assessment of the implementation of the funding model we have recommended for Wyoming

A brief description of each is provided below.

We hope these documents demonstrate the interactive approach we use with each of our clients. The papers presented here were designed for specific clients, and should be thought of as representative of how we work. The work we will do in Washington will be tailored specifically to the needs of the State of Washington; the final form of our product(s) will be worked out in conjunction with the Washington Learns Steering Committee and K-12 Advisory Committee during the course of the study.

### **Arkansas Evidence Based Adequacy Study**

In 2003, Lawrence O. Picus and Associates conducted a major adequacy study for the state of Arkansas. Using our evidence based methods, we worked interactively with a ten member joint legislative committee as well as with representatives of education support groups and two large professional judgment panels composed of a group of educators from across the state, to develop

an educational model that we believe will help insure all students gain the knowledge and skills needed to meet the Arkansas proficiency standards. This executive summary provides an overview of the work we did, the recommendations we made and the resources we recommended be available to every school in the state. The full report can be downloaded and read from the following web site:

<http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/data/education/FinalArkansasReport.pdf>

### **Wyoming Recalibration Report**

This document is the executive summary of the report we have just submitted to Wyoming as part of our recalibration of their funding system. Using our evidence based approach we have estimated the resources needed to meet Wyoming's educational basket and then estimated the cost of providing those resources in each school district. This report describes in detail how we conducted the study and the recommendations we are making. In addition to this report, we have built a funding model that the state can use – if it is passed into law by the Legislature and Governor – to allocate funds to schools across the state.

The executive summary includes a description of the model, a summary of the major issues the Committee has resolved, and our matrix of resources as they relate to schools in Wyoming. The full report can be downloaded and read from the following website:

<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2005/interim/schoolfinance/Recalibration/WY%20RecaFinal.pdf>

### **Wyoming Implementation Assessment Proposal**

Critical to the success of any school finance adequacy study is the implementation of its recommendations. Critical to the success of any new program is having some assurance that local school districts are implementing programs that are, or resemble, the research-based model contained in the report.

Please note that the proposal is tentative and suggests a number of alternative approaches for the committee to consider. It is not – at the present time – an ongoing project.